

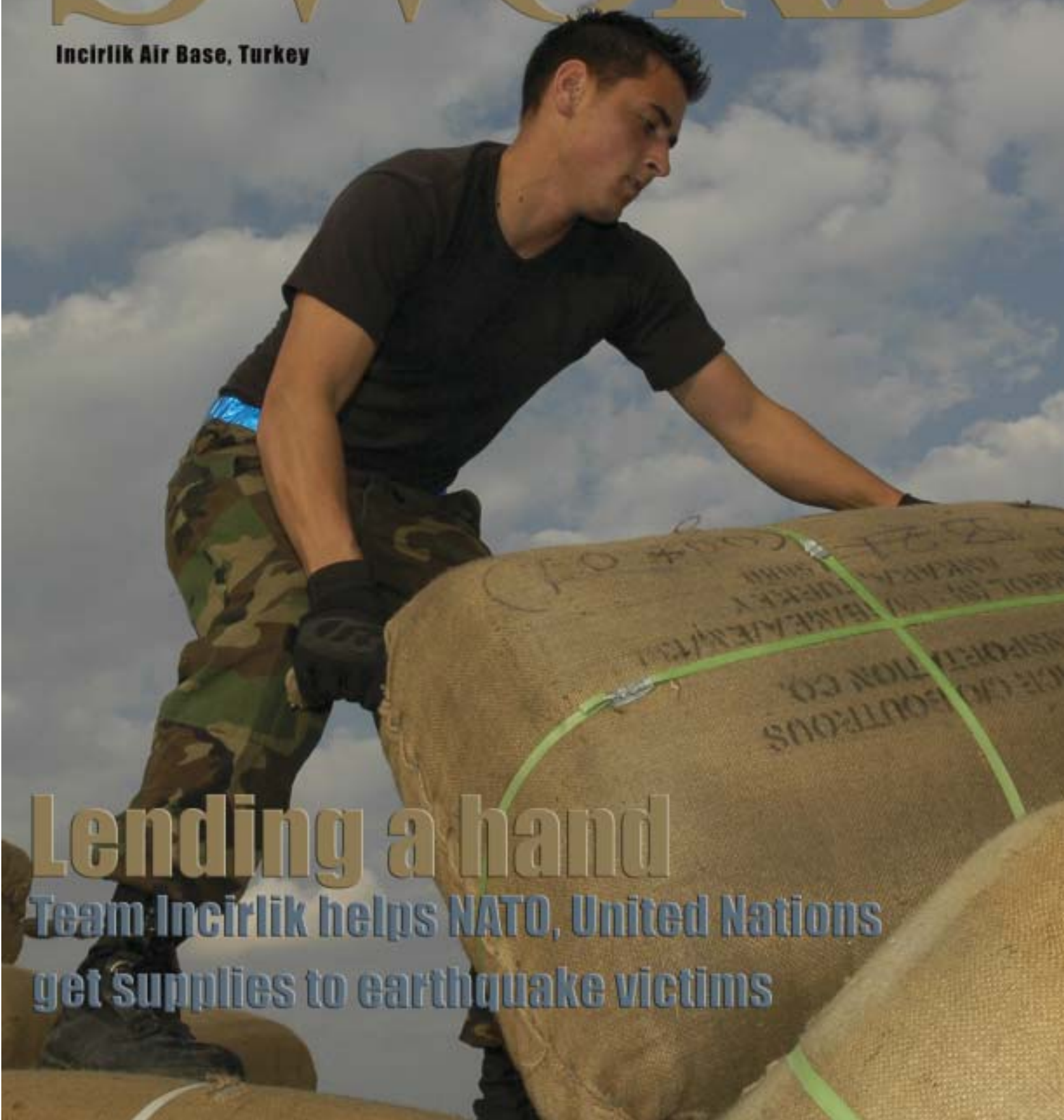
TIP OF THE SWORD

Oct. 28, 2005

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey

Lending a hand

Team Incirlik helps NATO, United Nations
get supplies to earthquake victims



TIP OF THE SWORD

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On the cover:

Airman 1st Class Caleb Carmody, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron Airlift Clearance authority, helps prepare relief supplies for transportation to Pakistan. See story on Page 6. (Photo by Senior Airman Larry Reid Jr.)

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Setting goals

Creating the roadmap to achieve vision

By Col. "Tip" Stinnette
39th Air Base Wing commander



Col. "Tip" Stinnette

Imagine a pilot coming over the intercom and announcing, "I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is we have lost one engine and our navigation aids are not working. The good news is we have a tail wind and wherever we are going, we are going to get there really fast."

For most of us, the notion of flying along like that plane, directionless but being pushed along swiftly by the winds of circumstance, would be disconcerting news. In this analogy, the navigation aids are the goals supporting and serving as a road map to the vision. This article is the third in the series on our vision, mission and goals.

Our organizational vision is to project the most respected and versatile mission support capability in U.S. Air Forces in Europe and our mission is to provide full-spectrum, world-class forward operating support to expeditionary forces while developing the professional talents of our men and women. The purpose of this article is to explain the navigation aids that will help us accomplish our mission while progressing toward our vision.

Goal setting is a logical approach to dynamic organizational achievement. Success is not achieved by hope but rather it is realized through thoughtful planning. In order to plan for success, we need goals. Along this line we have three distinct goals that are designed to serve as our plan for success. Our goals as an organization are focused mission support, development of professional talents and improvement of community services.

The goal of focused mission support is all about continuing to expand our mission support capabilities for expeditionary operations. We are living this right now as one of the largest cargo hubs in the world supporting the flow of supplies to Operation Iraqi Freedom and serving the NATO and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Pakistani earthquake relief effort.

While we work to improve our ability to

support expeditionary operations, we must not lose sight of our core charter to be guardians of our critical resources which is a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week and 365-days-a-year responsibility that cannot fail.

Development of the professional talents of our men and women is a multi-faceted goal which seeks to support the development of our expeditionary competencies as deployable individuals and teams while nourishing the multiple dimensions of fitness: physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. The Combat and Special Interest Programs are key enablers in the development of our collective professional talents.

Improvement of community services as a goal recognizes the importance of our community family and strives to increase community outreach programs while integrating deployment and redeployment support. Volunteerism and community involvement across the spectrum of installation activities is absolutely crucial to achieving this goal.

Many of you will recall the Three Fs of Incirlik: Family, Fitness and Focus. The Three Fs of Incirlik are another way to think of the three goals described above. We are who we are and where we are because of what we let inhabit our goal-box. Let's endeavor to commit to the Incirlik vision, mission and goals so we can continue to be the most respected and versatile mission support capability in USAFE. Bring your courage, conviction and communication.

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Individual, team goals benefit all

By Chief Master Sgt. Ray Allen
39th Air Base Wing command chief

We all set goals in our personal lives like education, promotion, buying a home or retirement. We all have goals here at the 39th Air Base Wing. What is great about our goals is we can achieve them if we all work together. They will help us in reaching our vision and mission, and they will improve quality of life both on and off duty.

Focused mission support is simply our principle of supporting U.S. Air Forces in Europe's and the Air Force's mission. The key to this goal is providing support to our customers and compliance with all directives to that end. We must strive to do and be the best at all times. Teamwork is what makes us successful in this endeavor.

Developing professional talents is ensuring readiness to complete the mission. It encompasses technical training to professional military education and physical fitness to spiritual fitness. Our individual and team readiness, to include our personal families',

emotional, physical and spiritual needs, are critical to mission accomplishment. Taking care of ourselves is basic to mission accomplishment because without you there is no mission.

Improving community services is for all of us. Programs for our families, unaccompanied Airmen, single parents or teens are all key to the well-being of our team. Participation is essential both in use of available services and in volunteering. If we do not use the available programs and services funding gets cut. Then others arrive and wonder why we do not have these services available. Community service through volunteering is part of being a community. It adds to our self awareness and improves the quality of life of Team Incirlik.

Everyone has goals. To be successful as a team, we all need to strive to achieve the same goals in concert with each other. I have seen team work for the 14 months I have been here at Incirlik. These goals are challenging yet simple if we work together ... and they will benefit us all in the long run.

Action Line: addressing community concerns

Gas coupons

Q: While stationed in Okinawa, Japan, everyone was encouraged to utilize the free flyer "gas coupons" from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service that would save the military member or affiliate \$2 off any purchase of eight gallons of gas or more on base. What is the possibility of bringing this idea here?

A: Good question and thank you for the perspective and idea. Our AAFES experts have crafted the response below:

Most Department of Defense organizations in Japan are reimbursed a portion of operating expenses by the Government of Japan as part of the Status of Forces Agreement. AAFES has elected to use these discretionary funds to reduce the price of certain commodities and services to our customers in Japan. Since the government of Japan restricts the use of these funds to Japan and Okinawa, we cannot mirror the gasoline discounts outside those two areas.

Incirlik mail

Q: Would you explain the process by which mail, sent from the states, arrives at the Official Documents Center?

A: This is a great question and one we are sure will be of interest to the entire Incirlik community.

Letters sent from the United States to Incirlik travel to John F. Kennedy International Airport, N.Y., where they enter the Military Postal System. The standard MPS delivery time for First Class and Priority mail to an APO box is seven to 14 days. This does not include U.S. Postal System delivery time from the sender to New York. From JFK, they are loaded on the first available commercial flight to Istanbul. In Istanbul, mail is separated and shipped here by contracted truck, which takes approximately 17 hours.

There are many variables involved with the mail transportation that may cause a delay. Sometimes mail is mispitched to the wrong APO which adds two to three days to delivery time. Holiday mail volumes can push delivery times toward 14 days. There is a visual aid at the ODC that describes the mail procedures to and from Incirlik. For more information, call the ODC at 6-6301.

Submit Action Lines by e-mailing action.line@incirlik.af.mil or calling the 39th Public Affairs Office at 6-6060. Concerns are edited to 300 words or less. Action Lines may be printed in the *Tip of the Sword*.

YOUR TURN

What do you do or plan to do to keep your children drug free?

"I talk to my children about the affects drugs have on them and I talk to them about the things they see in movies. My daughter is 15 years old, and I hope if we talk to her enough she will stay away from drugs."



— **Connie Denado, Incirlik family member**

"I keep him busy. He is involved in a lot of base activities like basketball, soccer and baseball. We also go on a lot of family trips on the weekends. That's pretty much all he has time for."



— **Stephen Hills, Army and Air Force Exchange Service**

"They aren't with me right now, but when I get back I'm going to make sure I know what is going on in their lives and stay involved."



— **Staff Sgt. Brandon Lett, 39th Operations Squadron**

"We're teaching them to talk to mom and dad before taking something a stranger offers. As they get older, we'll continue to keep them aware of what is going on around them."



— **Janice Little, Incirlik family member**

"I'm going to stay up on their education and I'm going to teach them how to deal with peer pressure."



— **Staff Sgt. Brett Cranfill, 39th Communications Squadron**

To submit a question for "Your Turn," call 6-6060 or e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil



Airman Information File

October 2005

Self-Improvement

“Victory smiles upon those who anticipate the changes in the character of war, not upon those who wait to adapt themselves after the changes occur.”

— Italian Air Marshall Giulio Douhet

Self-improvement in support of anticipated mission requirements is at the heart of everything we do as members of the profession of arms — especially in our dynamic world. It is the intrinsic factor that you bring to the fight. Personal improvement builds upon what you are trained to do and what you are capable of doing. Your efforts to improve can directly impact the mission.

Your focus should be on deliberate self-improvement — not “square filling.” You must tailor your efforts to improve areas that lead to value-added contributions to the mission and combat readiness should be your first concern. Every combat veteran will attest that personal readiness can mean the difference between mission success or failure on the battlefield. As an example, personal fitness is more than the ability to run, do a few push-ups, and crunches — it is developing the mental and physical acuity necessary to outperform your adversary. In identifying an area for self-improvement ask yourself, “Will my improvement in this area benefit the mission?” If you answer “yes”, pull the trigger and dedicate yourself to achieving that goal.

Expect challenges along the way — no real goal is without adver-

sity. Go around them, go over them, go under them, or dig through them. Be relentless — don’t ever turn back. Make self-improvement goals the dominant focus in your life. It is a known fact that successful people make an “obsession” of their self-improvement goals. Benjamin Franklin’s entire life reflected his belief in self-improvement — a model of the self-made man. He worked constantly to improve and became one of the most respected intellects of the Western world.

There are many resources available to you in your quest for focused self-improvement. Combat Education is designed to assist you in removing obstacles in pursuit of educational goals. USAFE University stands ready to bolster any technical, professional, or educational goal you may have. Supervisors will mentor and guide you in attaining the resources you need.

The message is clear — develop a professional edge on your competition. We give you the tools and training needed to do your job, and you bring the courage, determination, and passion to excel. Your personal contributions are what make our Air Force the most feared and respected in the world — every day you improve, we all get better!



General Doc Foglesong



CMSgt Gary Coleman

“Bring Your Courage”

Force shaping board assists with future AF needs

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — A force shaping board will convene in 2006 and continue to meet annually to properly shape the officer corps to meet emerging Air Force needs.

Instituted by the Air Force, the board will be a regular aspect of force management and development in the future.

Authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force, the board convenes at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas in April.

Force shaping efforts started in 2004 and evolved in an effort to meet congressionally mandated fiscal year end-strength requirements and maintain a balanced force.

“The force shaping board is another aspect of our force management and development,” said Brig. Gen. Glenn Spears, Air Force director of force management policy. “We must have a balanced force of officers and enlisted Airmen to meet the missions of today and tomorrow.”

The Air Force began fiscal year 2006 with a

force imbalance. It was under strength by approximately 6,000 enlisted and over strength by approximately 3,000 officers.

A current excess of nearly 4,000 officers — primarily from the 2000 to 2004 commissioning years — make worse the imbalance and has a long-range impact on the effective development of the officer corps and the ability to access sustainable numbers of enlisted Airmen. Despite an aggressive voluntary force shaping campaign, the Air Force has not achieved the balance of officer to enlisted Airmen through existing voluntary means.

Congress recently gave each service secretary increased authority to proactively manage their junior officer corps through force shaping efforts.

“The Air Force values the service and sacrifice of all Airmen who volunteer to serve, and separating officers is a difficult decision that we do not take lightly,” General Spears said. “This first force shaping process will ‘select-in’ approximately 7,800 line officers commissioned in 2002 and 2003 to continue to serve in our active Air Force.”

Eligible officers may continue to apply for

voluntary separation until March 1, 2006 using the force shaping initiatives already approved.

About 20 Incirlik officers are affected by the force shaping efforts.

Brig. Gen. Danny Gardner, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe Mission Support director briefed the affected Incirlik officers on the force shaping efforts Tuesday. Incirlik was the first USAFE base to receive the briefing.

Subsequent boards will consider officers commissioned three years earlier. For example, the 2007 board will evaluate officers commissioned in 2004.

“We value the service of all our Airmen,” General Spears said. “Voluntary force shaping initiatives, and the force shaping board, are key aspects of our force management and development.”

“Our Airmen have many opportunities to serve — in the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard, as Air Force civilians or in the Army,” the general said. “We encourage Airmen in the affected year groups to pursue those opportunities to continue service to our great nation.”

Awareness

Key to keeping Incirlik children off drugs

By Kerry Bringman
39th Medical Group

The Department of Defense has been at the front of America's efforts to combat illegal drugs for more than twenty years through drug testing and educational programs within DoD communities. These efforts include participation in Red Ribbon Week.

Red Ribbon Week reminds everyone about the dangers and impact of drug use and abuse, and the benefits of a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Red Ribbon Week was created to honor those, past and present, who dedicated their lives and careers to keep American communities and children safe from drugs.

Incirlik students participate in Red Ribbon week activities like drug awareness seminars, artistic contests and a pledge to stay drug free.

In the wake of the Congressional hearings on steroid use among professional athletes in March, this year's Red Ribbon Week theme is "Real heroes don't use drugs."

"Red Ribbon Week is effective because it helps people steer clear of drugs and alcohol," said Ariel Westgate, 14, Incirlik High School sophomore. "I don't do drugs or drink alcohol because it's stupid. I just don't want to."

Since 1975, the "Monitoring the Future" survey has annually studied the extent of drug abuse among high school students.

Decreases or stability in use patterns were noted for the most part from 2003 to 2004. However, for the second year, increases in inhalant abuse were seen among 8th graders.

Even a single session of repeated inhalant abuse can disrupt heart rhythms and cause death from cardiac arrest or lower oxygen lev-

els enough to cause suffocation. Regular abuse of inhalants can result in serious damage to vital organs, including the brain, heart, kidneys and liver.

Steroids are another drug that's use by young adults is on the rise. With today's emphasis on being the biggest, fastest and strongest, the use of performance enhancing drugs is on the rise by both professional and minor league athletes. These people are often role models for school children. Athletes' behavior can directly influence the behavior of adolescents.

Steroids can enhance certain types of performance or appearance, but they can cause a host of severe, long-lasting, and often irreversible negative health consequences. These drugs can stunt the height of adolescents, masculinize women and alter the sex characteristics of men. They can lead to premature heart attacks, strokes, liver tumors, kidney failure and serious psychiatric problems.

These specific drugs are only a small part of a larger problem.

According to a study prepared for the National Institute on Drug Abuse by the National Institute on Alcohol and Abuse and Alcoholism the economic cost of alcohol and drug abuse is estimated at \$245.7 billion. This estimate includes substance abuse treatment and prevention costs as well as other healthcare costs and costs associated with reduced job productivity or lost earnings.

Much of this cost may be avoided if parents, teachers and other adults reach out to today's students and teach them the personal costs of drug use and abuse far outweigh the temporary benefits of a high.

IN THE NEWS

Promotion ceremony

The 39th Air Base Wing promotion ceremony is 2 p.m. Monday in the club. For more information, call Master Sgt. Rose Mason at 6-8075.

Trick-or-treat

Trick-or-treating is 6 to 8 p.m. Monday in Incirlik housing. Children participating should have costumes short enough to avoid tripping, carry a flashlight and a reflective belt, and walk in a group. Children should walk on sidewalks and cross streets at crosswalks. Parents or a responsible adult should accompany young children. For more safety tips, call the safety office at 6-7233.

Special duty briefing team

The Air Education Training Command Special Duty Briefing Team is briefing 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Nov. 3 in the club. For more information, call Master Sgt. Roberta Williams, 39th Air Base Wing career adviser, at 6-1019 or Master Sgt. Tony Cruz Munoz, 39th ABW command chief executive, at 6-8666.

Commissary holiday hours

The commissary is closed Thursday to allow Turkish employees to observe the end of Ramazan. The commissary is open during normal hours on Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving Day. For more information, call 6-6855.

Wingman Day

Wingman Day is 6:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 10 at Arkadas Park. A variety of events are planned. Uniform of the day is physical training gear. This is mandatory for Air Force members. For more information, call Capt. Kim Bell at 6-7272.

No parking area

The grassy area across the street from the track parking lot is a no parking zone. Vehicles parking in this area narrows the road, creates blind spots and could be a collision hazard. If the parking lot next to the track is full, people can park in the large parking lot across from building 432. For more information call the safety office at 6-7233.



Incirlik Airmen help bring *Relief for Pak*

**By Senior Airman
Stephanie Hammer**
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs



C-130s line the flightline at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, Oct. 19 in preparation to receive humanitarian aid. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is using the base as an "air-bridge" to transport 860

With the determination of a colony of ants whose home

was destroyed, Airmen move through a maze of cargo on the flightline at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. The mission: to provide humanitarian aid to earthquake victims in Pakistan.

It is barely more than two weeks since a devastating earthquake rocked parts of India, Pakistan and Afghanistan Oct. 8. The magnitude 7.6 earthquake left thousands dead and more than twice as many wounded.

But the loss of life did not end with the quake itself. The millions of people without homes are now at risk for hypothermia and in need of shelter as the temperatures in the region drop.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees joined forces with NATO and the Turkish government to answer the cries for help and

started airlifting hundreds of tons of needed supplies, including almost 10,000 tents, from Turkey to Islamabad, Pakistan. The supplies are from the UNHCR warehouse in Iskenderun, Turkey.

"The people are in urgent need of shelter, and of course other things," said Metin Corabatir, UNHCR public information officer for Turkey. "We are here to save lives."

The 39th Air Base Wing joined with the 10th Tanker Base Command and provided around-the-clock manpower as 19 truckloads of supplies arrived here at night Oct. 18 and were loaded on five C-130s from Italy, Great Britain, Greece and France. The first shipment left in the morning the next day.

"We are supporting this important mission with our Turkish partners," said Col. David Wilmot, 39th Mission Support Group commander. "This coalition effort leverages 50 years of teaming experience between U.S.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. William Gomez

Airmen from the 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron unload blankets from a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees truck Oct. 18.



istan

Photo by Tech. Sgt. William Gomez

move cargo to Islamabad, Pakistan. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees is using the base as an "air-bridge" to transport blankets, tents and stoves to Pakistan.



Photo by Senior Airman Larry Reid, Jr.

Airmen from the 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron and 10th Tanker Base Command unload blankets from a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees truck Oct. 18. The UNHCR is using the base as an "air-bridge" to transport blankets, tents and stoves to Pakistan.

and Turkish forces at Incirlik; it is what we do every day."

"We have been in 24-hour operations for three days," added Capt. Paul Cornwell, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron operations officer. "The cargo is coming to us in trucks hand-stacked and in burlap sacks. It is time consuming to offload the trucks by hand and then turn around and build up the aircraft pallets."

The 24-hour operation is a small part of the commitment Airmen at Incirlik have showed in moving supplies to Pakistan. They have battled keeping up with the high demand for turnover coupled with rain in the middle of the night.

"I was out last night building pallets in the rain," said Captain Cornwell. "A burlap sack containing blankets fell off a truck, landing in a puddle and several more were about to fall out of the truck. One Airman stood up

and said, 'These folks have lost everything they have. Let's make sure they don't get wet blankets.' That simple statement summed up our dedication to getting these supplies downrange."

The flightline is not the only area on base manning up to accommodate the demands of the mission. Helping move the cargo is an array of international NATO troops being cared for by the 39th Services Squadron. Right now, Tin city is accommodating more than 150 extra personnel.

"There are so many moving parts to this scale of an operation, it is hard to know exactly who to expect and how many people they are bringing," said Capt. Michael Meek, 39th SVS Combat Support Flight commander. "But while they are here, we will make sure all NATO troops have a warm bed, clean sheets and a hot meal, so they can fulfill their part of the mission."

"This is a perfect example of good people trying to make the world better," he continued. "Although we may speak different languages and come from totally different cultures, we are all trying to help people that have been devastated by an unfortunate natural disaster. That is what makes this world a better place – helping each other when we fall on hard times."

The mission is expected to continue for the next couple of weeks to a month, but that does not deter the determination of the men and women of Team Incirlik, according Capt. Cornwell.

"There will be some family who we will never meet or see who have nothing but the clothes on their backs," he said. "Getting them into one of these tents with some blankets to stay warm just might take the edge off what has happened. Hopefully, it will help them to start the rebuilding process."

Air terminal operations help keep missions flying

By Staff Sgt. Shanda De Anda
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The mission of the 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Air Terminal Operations is two fold – airlift clearance authority and readiness.

These functions are particularly essential in support of the Air Force's expeditionary structure, the bases's ongoing cargo hub operations and, as of Oct. 18, the largest coordinated effort between NATO and the United Nations to provide needed supplies to earthquake victims in Pakistan.

"Many large aerial ports have an ACA and customer service branch, but here at Incirlik our four-person team does it with the additional challenges specific to this region," said Master Sgt. Curtis Palmer, 39th LRS Air Terminal Operations superintendent.

The airlift clearance authority portion of their mission provides immediate support to customers transporting cargo in the Defense Transportation system. ACA support includes, but is not limited to advancing, tracking shipments, resolving frustrated cargo issues, upgrading, green sheeting (priority processing of cargo through the airlift system when justified) and diverting cargo.

"One of the biggest challenges in this aspect of our job is customs and having the right documentation to get cargo into and out



Photo by Tech Sgt. William Gomez

(Left) Master Sgt. Curtis Palmer, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron Air Terminal Operations superintendent, helps Tech Sgt. Joseph McClung, 39th LRS Air Terminal Operations, load a pallet onto a flatbed truck.

39th LRS Airman receives Bronze Star

By Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Curtis Palmer, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was recently awarded the Bronze Star for his efforts while deployed as the Senior NCO in charge of the Air Movements Section, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

"I've always been a 'behind-the-scenes' type of guy," said Sergeant Palmer. "(Being awarded the Bronze Star) is definitely rewarding, totally unexpected and humbling."

While deployed, Sergeant Palmer planned the aerial movement of nearly 600 rotary wing and 100 fixed wing missions delivering more than 7,300 personnel and 920 tons of supplies.

According to Capt. Christian Carter, MNSTC-I strategic movement officer, Sergeant Palmer became the command's subject matter expert on 13 airfields and 180 helicopter landing zones throughout the area of operation.

In addition to scheduling the movement of troops and cargo, he was also charged with the safe transport of high level officials to include the Secretary of Defense and Iraqi Prime Minister.

"I have over 12 years as an officer in both the Army and the Air Force," said Captain Carter. "Master Sergeant Palmer is definitely one of the greatest NCOs that I've had an opportunity to work with, not only because of his knowledge, but because of his emphasis on customer service and his ability to work above and beyond on tasks outside of his assigned duties."

The experiences of the deployment allowed Sergeant Palmer to reflect on his career and his role in the mission.

"The deployment really put OIF into perspective," said Sergeant Palmer. "Being right in the middle of everything, it made me feel like I was a key contributor – training and equipping the Iraqis, playing an important role in the rebuilding of Iraq."

of the country, resolving frustrated cargo issues and acting as the liaison between the customer and Air Mobility Command," said Sergeant Palmer. "We also support the KC-135 tanker unit and provide transportation air expertise for contingency and Special Assigned Airlift Missions such as the Pakistan relief efforts."

The air terminal operations team, while meeting Air and Space Expeditionary Forces commitments that regularly reduces manning to 50 percent, also supports base readiness needs.

"We are smack dab in the middle of the wing deployment process," said Sergeant Palmer. "We provide the cargo and passenger deployment functions training for LRS readiness augmentees, unit deployment managers and cargo increment monitors."

The ATO readiness functions help ensure all wartime and peacetime contingencies and Special Assigned Airlift Missions or other airlift requirements are identified and pre-planned while providing air and ground transportation support and sustained operations of all U.S. Air Forces in Europe, to include SAAMs, contingencies and exercises.

"Additionally, we provide training for hazardous cargo technical specialists, cargo preparation and pallet build-up courses, and ensure air authority for customers who ship cargo to, from or through Incirlik, including the geographically separated units," said Sergeant Palmer.

The air terminal operations team meets challenges head on to contribute to the wing's overall mission to provide full-spectrum, world-class forward operating base support to expeditionary forces. These challenges are tempered by the rewards of mission success.

"The most rewarding part of what we do is the sense of mission accomplishment when inbound and outbound personnel get their household goods and unaccompanied baggage on time and without delay," said Sergeant Palmer. "Our efforts toward the Pakistan relief effort, working with different NATO countries and helping out millions of (earthquake victims) in a time of need have also been rewarding."

Turkish national celebrates 30 years of service

By Senior Airman Stephanie Hammer
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Ask Mehmet.

For decades, that is just what people at Incirlik have been doing. Mehmet Birbiri, who has answered the questions of thousands who travel through Incirlik and Turkey, celebrated 30 years of service Monday.

Mr. Birbiri, 39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs host nation adviser, has worked at Incirlik Air Base since 1975 and in the public affairs office since 1985. He is what he calls a "bridge" between the two nations who share Incirlik. But, most might remember him from his famous "Ask Mehmet" column in the *Tip of the Sword*, incomers' briefings or the first term Airmen center.

"Mehmet has been a key contributor to the Incirlik mission through out his 30 years of service," said Col. "Tip" Stinnette, 39th ABW commander. "All of our long term employees provide Team Incirlik crucial mission continuity and we are in their debt."

One of the most memorable times Mr. Birbiri said he can remember was during Operation Provide Comfort. He was on the first plane to go to Iraq and drop food for Kurdish refugees. Watching the cargo fly off the back of a C-5 was quite an experience and not one he will soon forget, he said. Later, he flew in a helicopter to the same location and found this experience to be just as memorable, but not for the same reasons.

The helicopter was in need of repair and unable to fly the passengers back to Incirlik. Instead, they had to take a van and drive back across the border. Mr. Birbiri was without his passport and came up with a plan. He borrowed a dessert camouflage uniform top and hat, put them on, and pretended to be a sleep. Nobody

questioned him, and he arrived home safely.

"That is the closest I have been to being an American soldier," he said.

Through the years, Mr. Birbiri has put out many a fire, including lost gate passes and fluctuating on-base taxi rates. But while he is not busy keeping Team Incirlik moving forward, the public affairs offices throughout the years have kept Mr. Birbiri busy with a different sort of flame.

"Just as a joke, we put a picture of a woman's face over his on his badge when he was away from his desk," said Capt. John Haynes, who worked with Mr. Birbiri from 2000 to 2002. "Mehmet did not realize this when he returned to his desk, and proceeded to put on the badge as he went out and made the rounds around base. Much to his chagrin, the first person to notice the badge was the wing commander as Mehmet was coming through a security check in the headquarters building. Our commander, who wasn't known for his sense of humor, made sure to inform Mehmet of the badge issue. I'm not sure if Mehmet found it funny, but the rest of us just laughed and laughed."

Mr. Birbiri started the "Ask Mehmet" column in 1986, only one year after joining the public affairs team. He was asked such great questions that he said he thought, "Why not share it with the rest of the base."

He said the column became so popular that other European bases started their own versions. After a couple of months, unable to keep up with "Ask Mehmet," other columns started to fade away. Mr. Birbiri credits his success to the rich culture of Turkey which has so much to offer and to write about.

"I can say that he was without doubt the best host nation adviser I've seen out of eight overseas assignments," said Captain Haynes. "It was truly an honor working with him. And

as I've seen in my travels, many have tried to copy the 'Ask Mehmet' column in the paper, but all have failed."

Mr. Birbiri's service does not stop at Incirlik. Not only has he taught Turkish classes for the University of Maryland University College since 1982, but also taught at Turkish schools for 10 years before that.

Before taking on the job as host nation adviser, Mr. Birbiri worked at the dry cleaners, the law enforcement desk and then as a customs liaison. Through it all, Mr. Birbiri, who has seen 26 American commanders come through the base, said the best part of his job has always been helping people.

"Ask Mehmet," at the "young" age of 54, said he has no plans for early retirement.

"I'll be here for as long as my health can keep up with me," he said. "This is the job of my dreams. I cannot think of a job I would rather have."

Incirlik civilians with 30 or more years of service:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ♦ Nedim Cira, 39th Mission Support Squadron | Squadron |
| ♦ Fatma Nevin Bilir, 425th Air Base Group | ♦ Fahri Kerkel, 425th ABG |
| ♦ Ihsan Elma, 39th Services Squadron | ♦ James Kutrubis, 425th ABG |
| ♦ Seyhan Elma, 39th SVS | ♦ Vyna Lindsay, 39th MSS |
| ♦ Tevfik Esberk, DoDDs | ♦ Hilmi Yalcin Manap, 425th ABG |
| ♦ Cemil Filiz, 728th Air Mobility Squadron | ♦ Nuran Aysar, DoDDs |
| ♦ Tuncer Gokkan, 39th Security Forces Squadron | ♦ Yilmaz Ozcelik, 39th Air Base Wing |
| ♦ Muhtar Gucum, 39th SFS | ♦ Muzaffer Sarac, 728th AMS |
| ♦ Ismail Gulhan, 39th SFS | ♦ Mustafa Seker, 39th Communications Squadron |
| ♦ Adil Gultekin, 39th Operations Squadron | ♦ Kenith Smith, 39th SVS |
| ♦ Sheila Harris, 39th MSS | ♦ Yuksel Tireng, DoDDs |
| ♦ Mehmet Keceli, 39th Logistics Readiness | ♦ Necdet Uslu, 728th AMS |
| | ♦ Hasan Yuksekbaz, 728th AMS |

Two-step

Master Sgt. Anthony Cruz Munoz, 39th Air Base Wing command chief executive assistant, leads students at the Airman Leadership School in a boot run Oct. 19.



Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards



Ask MEHMET

By Mehmet Birbiri, *Host Nation Adviser*

Republic Day

Question: Mehmet, does Turkey have a holiday similar to the American Independence Day?

Response: Turkey declared itself an independent republic Oct. 29, 1923. In commemoration of Republic Day, ceremonies, parades and other events take place throughout the country Friday.

The history of Republic Day starts with the Ottoman Turks when they appeared in the 13th century in Anatolia subjugating Turkish and Mongolian tribes.

At its height, the Ottoman Empire stretched from the Persian Gulf in the east to the outskirts of Vienna in the west, including all of northern Africa and the present day Balkan and Middle Eastern countries. After ruling one of the biggest empires in history for more than 600 years, the Ottoman Empire began to decline and was known as the sick man of Europe after World War I.

In World War I, Turkey was allied with the Germans. When Germany was defeated, the allied forces divided and occupied Anatolia.

The Greeks took Izmir and the Aegean region; the British—Istanbul and straits; the French—the Adana-Gaziantep region; and the Italians took the current Antalya area.

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, general of the Turkish forces, could not accept the partitioning of his country. He was the man who stopped the British Armada at the Dardannels, the hero of Gallipoli and victorious commander of the losing side during the war.

Deciding to create the nation of Turkey with its current borders, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk left Istanbul May 15, 1919, traveling to Samsun. Four days later, May 19, he started the War of Independence in Anatolia. He fought the ruling sultan and the occupying forces.

In spite of many difficulties, he drove the invaders and the sultan out of Turkey. Ataturk founded the Grand National Assembly April 23, 1920, during the War of Independence and was elected the GNA chairman.

The treaty of Lausanne, signed by Turkey and allied forces, was a political victory for



Courtesy photo

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, father of modern Turkey, founded the Republic of Turkey Oct. 29, 1923, when he was 42 years-old. Saturday, Turkey celebrates 82 years of independence.

the rulers of the new state and freed the country from foreign occupation. The treaty also established the territory and integrity of the land.

Long before the nation's push for independence, an idea had taken shape in Ataturk's mind — the state would be a republic.

In order not to sow the seeds of indifference, however, he had not spoken of it, not even to his closest friends. Then the time came to take action and strengthen the political structure of the Turkish state following the abolishment of the Sultanate.

The country needed to name its new form of government. To end the debates in the assembly, Ataturk made the decision after consulting with his closest friends over a dinner held around midnight Oct. 28, 1923.

After the meal, Ataturk rose and declared, "Friends, we shall proclaim the republic tomorrow." The next day, an amendment to the constitution was proposed and the Turkish state was proclaimed the Republic of Turkey.

Sugar Festival

Question: Mehmet, can you tell us about the Sugar Festival?

Response: The Sugar Festival is celebrated by the Moslems at the end of Ramazan, the fasting month for Moslems. It lasts three and a half days. Wednesday is the last day of Ramazan and the Sugar Festival starts on that day at noon. Observations continue through Nov. 5.

The first day is the most important. Every-

body wakes up early and men go to the mosque for the special bayram prayer.

After returning from the mosque, all the family members dress up nicely, mostly with new clothes, and another important tradition is practiced: Bayram visits.

Young people visit their elders first. The other relatives, neighbors and friends are also visited. Due to those visits, the traffic is quite busy on the first day of the festival.

Bayram visits are kept very short — 10 to 15 minutes. Mostly candies, chocolates, Turkish coffee or cold beverages are offered to visitors. People who cannot visit their friends and family members in other towns and cities make phone calls or send cards celebrating each other's festival.

Children love those visits and would like to visit as many elders as they can because it is traditional for elders to give pocket money to the children.

Another tradition practiced during the festival is visiting the graves of deceased family members. The visits to graveyards start one day prior to the festival and continue during the festival.

If you visit your Turkish friends, a box of candy or chocolate would be the most appropriate gift to take. The phrase for celebrating your Turkish friends festival is "İyi bayramlar" (ee-yee by-rahm-lahr), which means I wish you a happy festival.

Do you have a question about something Turkish? Ask Mehmet. To submit a question, call 6-6060 or e-mail mehmet.birbiri@incirlik.af.mil.

THE INCIRLIK GUIDE

Dads' 101

A class for new and expectant fathers is from 9 to 11 a.m. Friday and Nov. 18 in the hospital conference room. For more information, call Casey Wichlacz at 6-6452.

Club Halloween parties

A Halloween themed **Final Friday** celebration is from 5 to 7 p.m. today at the club. A **Halloween party** starts 9 p.m. Saturday. At this party, prizes will be given for best, worst and couple costumes. For more information, call the club at 6-6101.

Military Family Month

Cookies and cocoa are available at the base exchange from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday to start the Month of the Military Family. For more information, call the family support center at 6-6755.

Shriner's Ball

The Zohri Temple number 204 hosts the third annual Shriner's Ball 6 p.m. Nov. 12 at the club. Cost is \$25 per person. For more information, call Jeffery McWaine at 6-6368, Ronald Coleman at 6-6312 or Anthony Harris at 6-1479.

Airlift Tanker Association

The Airlift Tanker Association meets the second Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the Piper Lounge at the club. The next meeting is Nov. 10 and is open to all Incirlik members. For more information, call Airman 1st Class Jaime Strayer at 6-6424.

Golf course meals

Mulligan's Bar and Grill is open for lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Sundays at the Hodja Lakes Golf Course. For more information, call the golf course at 6-8995.

Sunday Brunch

The club offers brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays. Cost is \$11.95, club members receive a \$2 discount. For more information, call 6-6101.

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Tech. Sgt. Timothy Thomas
39th Maintenance Squadron electro-
environmental section chief

Time in service: 18 years

Hometown: Bremen, Ga.

Time on station: 20 months

Hobbies: I enjoy coaching youth sports, running and spending time with my family.

Why did you join the Air Force?

When my father passed away I was 17. He told me about a year before that he wished he had joined the Air Force. Now I am living his dream and mine too. It's one of the best choices I have ever made.

What do you like the most about Incirlik?

I like working with youth programs, the warm

weather and it is tax free.

How do you contribute to the mission?

I coordinate and perform maintenance on electro-environmental systems components, liquid oxygen carts, gaseous oxygen and nitrogen servicing carts, and sealed lead acid and nickel-cadmium batteries for the C-17 cargo hub and KC-135 aircraft.

What is your favorite motto and why?

"When life gives you a lemon, make lemonade" because when there is an opportunity, you should take action and make the best of every situation.

What Air Force core value best describes you and why?

"Service before self." This core value best describes me because I believe that as I trust in God, defend my country and believe in myself good things will come to me and my family.

Supervisor's quote:

"Tech. Sgt. Thomas is my number one go-to expert NCO for any matters involving aircraft electro-environmental systems," said Master Sgt. James Rinehart, 39th Maintenance Squadron Aerospace Ground Equipment and Aircraft System Flight chief. "He has a positive attitude in all he does and he can be counted on to complete any task handed to him. I couldn't have chosen a better NCO to run the 39th MXS electro-environmental shop."



For sale: Five heavy traction tires with rims 215-80 R15. \$600 or best offer. A JVC 100w stereo system, 3-disc changer, has all audio and video connections, some scratches but otherwise brand new. \$150 OBO. X-Box with two games and one controller. System is brand new. Asking \$150. For more information, call Tylor at 6-5563.

For sale: ProForm 700 Cardio Cross Trainer in great condition. Used for only one year. Asking \$250 OBO. For more information, call Katie Averill at 6-2025.

For sale: Chest of drawers and nightstand, \$75; glass top table and chairs, \$30; bakers rack, \$20; recliner, \$40; end table, \$10; L-shaped desk, \$30. For more information, call Erica at 6-5144.

Free to a good home: A 2-year-old Norwegian Elkhound that is housebroken, neutered and has all current shots. He is ex-

tremely friendly but still young. Ideal home would have children or a full-time occupant as he loves company and exercise. For more information, call Danielle Reed at 6-8447.

Volunteers needed: The Official Documents Center is looking for volunteers for the upcoming holiday season. For more information, call the ODC at 6-6301.

Job available: Part-time opening at clinic for medical records coordinator. Duties include retrieving, copying, scanning and tracking medical records. Must have a high school degree or GED, experience as a medical records technician or in a medical clinic, organizational skills, attention to detail and ability to multitask. For more information, call Susan Bicknell at 6-8829.

Instructors needed: The community center is looking for instructors for the following classes: conversational English, swing dancing, instruments, international cooking and dog obedience. For more information, call 6-6966 or 6-1032.

Fall back



Daylight-saving time ends Sunday. Team Incirlik is reminded to set clocks back one hour Sunday at 2 a.m.

The Commander's Access Channel is also available with a display of the current time.



Photo by Airman1st Class Renee Saylock

Sitting pretty

Chaplain (Capt.) Martin King, 39th Air Base Wing Catholic priest, and Senior Airman Tianna Milagro, 39th ABW Chapel Program Support manager, head off to visit workplaces in the Holy Roller. Incirlik chaplains took the converted golf cart for its first official trip Tuesday to visit flightline workers and 39th Security Forces members on duty.

COMBAT, SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAM

CSIP metrics

All metrics current as of September.

Overall

Fifth in U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

Combat Fitness

Lowest fitness delinquency rate in USAFE.

Second in USAFE for percentage of people with more than 12 FitLinxx workouts logged.

Combat Nighthawk

First in USAFE for participation.

Combat Proud

First in USAFE for base appearance scores.

Combat Touch

First in USAFE for number of chaplain visits to work centers and dormitories.

Hidden Heroes

Third in USAFE for percent of volunteers.

Third in USAFE for total volunteer hours.



AT THE OASIS

Today

7 p.m. – The Transporter 2 (PG-13) (1st Run) – Starring Jason Statham and Alessandro Gassmann. Frank, makes a living driving for the wealthy Billings family. When the children are kidnapped Frank works relentlessly to get them back. (112 minutes)

9:15 p.m. – Four Brothers (R) – Starring Mark Wahlberg and Andre Benjamin. After their adoptive mother is murdered, the Mercer brothers take the matter into their own hands. (109 minutes)

Saturday

5 p.m. – Valiant (G) – Animated. Starring voices of Ewan McGregor, John Cleese and Tim Curry. A wood pigeon becomes a hero in Great Britain's Royal Air Force Homing Pigeon Service. (109 minutes)

7:30 p.m. – The Transporter 2 (PG-13) (1st Run) – Starring Jason Statham and Alessandro Gassmann. (112 minutes)

Sunday

7 p.m. – Supercross (PG-13) – Starring Steve Howey and Mike Vogel. Two brothers overcome emotional and physical obstacles

to achieve success in the competitive world of Supercross racing. (92 minutes)

Thursday

7 p.m. – Supercross (PG-13) – Starring Steve Howey and Mike Vogel. (92 minutes)

AT THE M1

The Transporter 2 (PG-13) – Starring Jason Statham and Alessandro Gassmann at 3:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m., and 9:15 p.m. (90 minutes)

Lord of War (R) – Starring Nicholas Cage and Jared Leto at 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 9:30 p.m. (122 minutes)

The 40 Year Old Virgin (R) – Starring Steve Carell and Catherine Keener at 9 p.m. (116 minutes)

Herbie Fully Loaded (G) – Starring Lindsay Lohan and Justin Long at 11:15 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. (101 minutes)

Legend of Zorro (PG) – Starring Katherine Zeta Jones at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. 4:15 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. (131 minutes)

Movie listings are subject to changes. On-base listings are courtesy of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Web site at <http://www.aafes.com/ems/euro/incirlik.htm>; M-1 listings are courtesy of Tepe Cinemaxx. For more Oasis information and updates, call the movie recording at 6-6986 or the theater office at 6-9140.